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520.30414R46

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al

Serial No.: 10/060,304

Filed: February 1, 2002

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR

Group: 3749

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

September 5, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find copies of documents to be considered by the Examiner during further examination of the above-identified application. Also enclosed is a List, on forms substantially equal to Form PTO-1449, of the enclosed documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified reissue application. Accordingly, clearly the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

As indicated on the enclosed List, copies of abstracts and/or full translations and/or partial translations of various of the enclosed documents are enclosed, for satisfying requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) in connection with the respective documents. Also enclosed are copies of English translations of Office Actions also satisfying requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

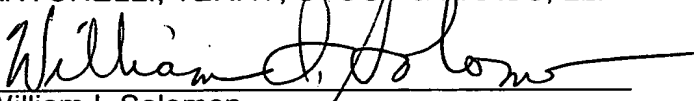
In view of the all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied in connection with the presently submitted documents. Consideration of the presently submitted

documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing docket no. 520.30414R46) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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